

**Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes**

July 21, 2005
3:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club
Willows, CA

Chair Marc Faye called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., followed by self-introductions. It was determined there was a quorum of 8 voting members present (underlined).

<u>County</u>	<u>Public Interest</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Butte	<u>Jane Dolan</u>	<u>Les Heringer</u>	
Colusa	(Gary Evans)	<u>Ben Carter</u>	
Glenn	<u>Denny Bungarz</u>	<u>Don Anderson</u>	
Shasta	(Glenn Hawes)	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	(Russell Young)	
Tehama	<u>Ron Warner</u>	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	(Duane Chamberlain)	<u>Marc Faye</u>	
Resources Agency			<u>Jim McKeivitt</u>
Cal DWR			Stacy Cepello
Cal DFG			Henry Lomeli
State Reclamation Board			Pete Rabbon
USF&WS			Catrina Martin
USCOE			Mark Charlton
Bureau of Reclamation			(Frank Michny)

Names listed in parentheses represent absences
Manager Burt Bundy
Assistant Ellen Gentry
Resource Conservation Assistant Beverley Anderson-Abbs

Other attendees: Bruce Kaplan, USF&WS; George Nicolaus, Landowner; Dawit Zeleke, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); John Merz, Sacramento River Preservation Trust (SRPT); Gregg Werner, TNC; Suellen Rowilson, River Partners; Vicki Newlin, California Bay Delta Authority (CBDA); Jeff Sutton, Family Water Alliance; Anjanette Martin, TAC Chair.

2. Unscheduled Matters – John Merz announced the Sacramento River Watershed Conference will be held Thursday and Friday, October 27-28, in Red Bluff, and will include a series of field trips. “Save the date” mailers will be sent announcing the conference.

Denny Bungarz reported CalFed is going through some changes and is focusing on the Delta. At their meeting last Thursday, it was suggested that some sub-committees which are slated to go statewide could affect the SRCAF. The next Working Landscapes meeting is scheduled for August 4 and the statewide program is on the agenda. Jeff Sutton announced that although he missed the last Working Landscapes meeting, he sees landowner benefits in regard to PILT. Denny added that BDPAC is trying to have an advisory group to “farm more dollars with more landowners.” Vicki Newlin added that CBDA is coming up with a ten year action plan in the new budget. She reported Joe Grindstaff, Interim Director, has a November 1 deadline and is hiring a consultant to do an independent review.

3. Consent Calendar – Denny Bungarz moved to adopt the minutes of the March 17, 2005 and June 2, 2005 meetings, seconded by Ron Warner. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Denny Bungarz moved to accept the Executive Committee meeting notes for the May 6, 2005 and June 30, 2005 meetings, seconded by Ron Warner. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

4. Agency Reports – Mark Charlton reported authorization bills traditionally occur in even numbered years, however, AB1665 may move this year (an odd number year) and may be an opportunity for flood control issues involving Hamilton City. Mark announced he will be transferring to San Francisco, but will continue his liaison work with the Forum. The Corps of Engineers will provide his replacement by the next board meeting. The board expressed their pleasure in working with Mark and thanked him for all his efforts.

Pete Rabbon reported on the Reclamation Board's Friday meeting regarding the state's ability to move forward on Hamilton City. He also commented on a bill that may be amended next week that requires possible mandatory notification for people living in flood areas by the state maintaining agencies.

Henry Lomeli, Dept. of Fish and Game, reported they are active on the river taking care of on-the-ground problems. They are mapping surveys, monitoring wildlife, addressing conflict resolution, access and other challenges along the river. The DF&G is also committed to continued involvement in the Colusa Sub-reach Planning process.

Catrina Martin, USF&WS, reported Dale Hall was selected as the new director last week. They have been actively working with farmers, ranchers and partnership activities.

Les Heringer, M&T/Llano Seco Ranches, gave a brief review of the pumping plant. Postcards were sent to over 800 recipients announcing the public information/early scoping meeting for the Calfed Feasibility Study Status Update, regarding the long-term solution for water supply reliability for the Ranches. The meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2005, at Glenn Pheasant Hall, 3:00-5:00PM. Mike Harvey, fluvial geomorphologist, will be presenting much of the information.

Suellen Rowilson, River Partners, reported the Two Dimensional Hydraulic Modeling information for the Draft Riparian Restoration Feasibility Study for the Riparian Sanctuary is now available on CD and in hard copy.

Gregg Werner, TNC, gave an update on the Colusa Subreach Advisory Workgroup. The next meeting is scheduled for August 1, 2005 at Colusa Farm Bureau from 10:00-2:00PM.

5. Board Committee Reports

The Financial Capacity Committee Chair, Jim McKeivitt, reported he will be working with Burt to get a draft of the Teichert grant proposal out to the board by the August 26, 2005 deadline.

Stacy Cepello reported on the TAC--The TAC has had two meetings since the last board meeting. River Road was reviewed June 7, and the discussion continued into the July 12 meeting. Jane Dolan pointed out that Butte County only owns the property where the road is currently, and is unable to purchase other property in order to relocate the road. John Merz, SRPT, believes other alternatives should be addressed. Jane expects a public forum will be held to address those issues.

Stacy reported on the swale construction at the Rio Vista Unit. USF&WS is moving forward on this project to reconstruct historic swales along South Ave. to help alleviate flooding. Burt noted Ernie Ohlin, Tehama County Flood Control, had called and indicated that Tehama

County was very pleased and appreciative of the work done by the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge. Dawit Zeleke, TNC, complemented F&WS, Tehama County, and the Board for working together to get this done, and added that it is a win/win situation and a success story.

Stacy also reviewed the Nicolaus property presentation. George Nicolaus, landowner/seller, gave a brief report on the 147 acre property. After the acquisition by TNC, George would negotiate a lease back to TNC to continue farming 30 acres of almonds. Dawit confirmed the land would be farmed, and that as long as it is farmed, TNC would pay all property taxes. Drainage concerns will be addressed through the CEQA process. Stacy reported the TAC neglected to take a position at the last meeting because the project was not seeking funding. However, after project endorsement from TAC Chair Anjanette Martin and Vice Chair Stacy Cepello, a policy draft letter was presented to the board for authorization, stating this project has gone through the process. Anjanette added that project proponents had indicated that they will continue maintenance on the adjacent Mud Creek levee. Denny Bungarz moved to accept the letter contingent upon further work to resolve concerns over local drainage issues and commercial farming practices, seconded by Ron Warner. Motion passed by a majority vote with one dissention.

6. CALFED ERP Working Landscapes Report and Possible Action – Burt gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding landowner issues and benefits of a proposal that could include a Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA). He also reviewed a SHA Summary and Questions and Answers, and the “Principles of Agreement” document, developed through the Legaci discussions. The following recommendation was made:

That staff work with the Executive Committee to craft a proposal for the CalFed ERP Working Landscapes grant that would: Continue our Project Review process; Develop a program to provide landowners tangible incentives for conservation activities; Develop a Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement for the Conservation Area, and; Coordinate Consultation of a Section 7 Permit with the appropriate agencies for maintenance of flood control, water supply, and boat ramp facilities.

The PSP deadline is September 19, 2005 with a 60 day comment period. Discussion ensued regarding landowner assurances and incentives. Jeff noted that on Section 7 there are some benefits of moving forward unilaterally. Ben Carter was not optimistic with the renewed momentum unless the board creates a crisis in Sacramento. Pete Rabbon recommended contacting Congressman Wally Herger and Senator Sam Aanestad for assistance with management level commitments. Ben then recommended dissolving the Landowner Assurances Committee (LAC), and bringing closure to the Legaci grant committee’s draft report. Marc Faye did not agree with disbanding the LAC, stating it was needed. Jane Dolan was not in favor of omitting any committee today either. Denny recommended, because of the time crunch, preparing the grant request with the Executive Committee’s assistance, and bringing a progress report to the next Executive Committee meeting in August. Jim expressed, by consensus, that the Executive Committee provide direction. Burt will move forward with the ERP proposal, and Legaci discussions will continue. Burt expressed hope that Ben and Jeff continue in those discussions.

7. Future Meeting Dates – Denny will be moderating the Landowner Incentives Workshop, July 28, 2005 at the Monday Afternoon Club, 1:30-4:30PM. The next board meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2005. The following meeting will be held November 17, 2005.